THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY&NJ Memorandum

TO: Nelson J. Chanfrau
FROM: Gerry Cummiskey
DATE: May 26, 1993
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FDNY REGARDING WTC PROPOSED ALARM SYSTEM

COPY TO: D. Warren

On 5/24/93 I met with FDNY Bureau of Fire Prevention senior staff regarding the proposed fire alarm systems for the WTC. In attendance were Chief Ted Rohlfing, FDNY Technology Management, Henry Gittlits, FDNY Bureau of Fire Prevention, Electrical, Chris Criscuolo, FDNY High Rise Unit, Alan Reiss, Charles Semah, Joseph Mizrahi, Port Authority and John Drucker representing Pyrotronics.

The following items were discussed:

- o An overview of the new alarm system was given to the FDNY staff. The proposed locations of various main fire panels, remote panels, and redundant panels were explained. The Chief requested a color coded drawing of the system's area of coverage for WTC 1, 2, 4, 5, concourse and subgrade. This will be provided by Pyrotronics for FDNY field command staff review and comment.

- o A more definitive set of specifications will be given to the Bureau's Electrical section. Included in this revision will be specific references to NYC Electrical Code and NYC Building Code.

- o FDNY Electrical and High Rise units requested a "tie-in" schedule for the proposed work indicating the approximate timing of installation, testing, dual system operation and final acceptance testing.

- o The issue of fiber-optic signal transmission was briefly discussed. NYC has not approved fiber-optic cable for fire alarm installations. The present code requires copper wiring. Pyrotronic's representative noted that "fiber optics" is approved by Underwriters Laboratory and is currently being reviewed for acceptance by NFPA. The FDNY position was restated by their electrical supervisors and that possible city code revision was not foreseeable.

- o The new WTC alarm system's central station or a proprietary configuration was discussed. Various FDNY opinions and concerns were openly reviewed by all meeting participants. Final alarm transmission determination will ultimately rest with the Port Authority, subject to FDNY review.

The meeting was cordial with all parties stressing the need for mutual cooperation. It was noted that all correspondence and requested plans and specs will be coordinated by Risk Management to Chief E. Cunningham. This direct path was agreeable to all parties: FDNY, Port Authority Engineering and WTC. After we submit to the Bureau the requested specs, drawings and schedules, a follow-up meeting will be conducted. I will keep you advised of this and all related issues.

Gerry Cummiskey
Administrator
Risk Control Division

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